

Remarks

Applicants have cancelled claims 1- 48 without prejudice to their rights to pursue the subject matter of these claims in other applications. Applicants have added new claims 49 to 57 which redirect the subject matter of the invention towards a single selected gene to diagnose rheumatoid arthritis. As discussed with the Examiner, Applicants have thus shifted the current invention from the disease asthma to rheumatoid arthritis. Applicants believe that the newly added claims are examinable without further restriction. Applicants thus respectfully request the Examiner accept the newly amended claims.

Applicant's have also amended the title of the pending application to more accurately reflect the subject matter of the newly amended claims.

Claims 49- 57 are pending. Support for the newly added claims is found through the specification and in the originally filed claims. In particular, support for the gene Cell division cycle associated 1 (CDCA1) is noted in Table 3M under the RNA accession number NM_145697 with a p value of 0.035177024. Further support is found in Example 20 and Figure 22. No new matter has been added.

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated August 30, 2006, Applicants elect Group I and have elected a single combination of "one or more" markers from the tables relevant to the detection of bladder cancer, namely Table 3J and Table 3K.

As noted, the Applicant has elected the selection of the gene Cell division cycle associated 1 (CDCA1) which is found in both Table 3M.

A petition for extension of time is attached. However, should any fees be required to

ensure consideration of this response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 04-1105, Reference No. 204231/2055Q.

Respectfully submitted,

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